

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 EUR-12 /071 W

----- 054415

O 010856Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4496

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3946

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA 1 APR 75:

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH THE MR3
DEPUTY COMMANDER, MG HIEU, AT 1030 HOURS APR 1. THERE HAS BEEN
NO RENEWAL THUS FAR TODAY OF THE MASSIVE ARTILLERY ATTACK
COMBINED WITH GROUND ASSAULT YESTERDAY AT CHON THANH, AND HIEU
DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN MR3 AS GENERALLY QUIET AND STABLE
FOR THE MOMENT.

2. BETWEEN 0700 AND 2200 HOURS MAR 31, THE NVA/VC FIRED AN
ESTIMATED 3,000 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY (105MM, 155MM, 120MM MORTAR)
AT THE RANGER AND RF BNS AT CHON THANH. THE ABF'S WERE ACCOMPANIED
BY GROUND ATTACKS, INCLUDING BOTH INFANTRY AND TANKS. AVAILABLE
INFORMATION INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT THE TANKS AND INFANTRY
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DID NOT PRESS HARD CLOSE TO THE PERIMETER WHICH PRESUMABLY

EXPLAINS THE ABSENCE OF ANY REPORTED NVA CASUALTIES. REPORTS INDICATE THAT VNAF DAMAGED 11 NVA TANKS. GVN CASUALTIES, THE HEAVIEST IN THE ATTACKS THUS FAR AT CHON THANH, WERE REPORTED AS 18 KIA, 101 WIA, AND DAMAGE TO TWO M-41 TANKS AND ONE 155MM HOWITZER. UP TO 1030 HOURS APR 1 THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER ATTACK AT CHON THANH. MR3 HQ NOW BELIEVES THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE 272ND REGT (9TH NVA DIV) RETURNED FROM THE TRI TAM AREA WITH TANK FORCES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHTING AT CHON THONH TOGETHER WITH THE NEW 273RD NVA REGT.

EM IN LONG KHANH, GVN FORCES TOOK THE INITIATIVE ON BOTH ROUTE 20 AND ROUTE 1 MAR 31. IN THREE GROUND CONTACTS SOME 10 KMS NORTHEAST OF KIEM TAN ON ROUTE 20, THE 52ND ARVN REGT HAD 2 KIA AND 7 WOUNDED COMPARED WITH NVA CASUALTIES OF 26 KIA. TWO BNS OF THE 48TH REGT MEANWHILE WERE PUSHED EASTWARD ON ROUTE 1 WITH A VIEW TO OPEN THE ROAD AND IN GROUND CONTACTS 9 AND 13 KMS EAST OF XUAN LOC INFLICTED NVA CASUALTIES OF 32 KIA. GVN CASUALTIES WERE NEGATIVE IN ONE ENGAGEMENT AND WERE "BEING FOLLOWED UP" IN ANOTHER WITH REPORTS THAT THE MAIN ARVN UNIT INVOLVED HAD LOST NO CASUALTIES.

4. IN THE TAY NINH AREA, ACTION IS STILL CONFINED TO MINOR ABF'S THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE NVA MAY BE PREPARING FOR HEAVY OFFENSIVE ACTION NORTH OF TANG BANG (ROUTE 1) BUT NOTHING DEFINITE HAS DEVELOPED YET.

5. BIEN HOA TOOK 3 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS AT 0555 HOURS APR 1. THEY STRUCK ON THE PERIMETER OF THE BASE WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

PETERS UNQUOTE MARTIN

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